

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election seems to be an example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their interests and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They also demonstrate why the license renewal process should involve more than just a returned postcard.

Sincerely,
David E. Schlatter